<u>Remarks</u>

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on September 23, 2004. Claims 3-6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their future prosecution. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 3. Claim 7 is added, support for claim 7 being found, for example, at page 13, lines 1-20, and at Figure 3 of the present application. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 2, and 7 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

I. <u>Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102</u>

In sections 2-4 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kohge et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,643,572, Kimura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,711,483, and Nakano et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,665,598. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejections is not conceded.

Claim 1 is amended to include subject matter from claim 3. Kohge, Kimura, and Nakano do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1 for at least the reasons provided below. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

II. <u>Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103</u>

In sections 6 and 7 of the Action, claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Yasuda, U.S. Patent No. 6,594,569, and as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Yasuda. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Preliminarily, it is noted that claims 3-6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 is directed to an electric power steering control device. Claim 1 recites a memory which is accommodated in the electric power steering control device mounted on a vehicle, and which permits rewrite and storage of data, wherein transmitting a signal from an external of the vehicle allows the data stored in the memory to be rewritten. Claim 1 further recites a ROM which stores a plurality of map data, wherein the memory stores label information corresponding to one of the plurality of map data, wherein the label information is read out at a start-up of the electric power steering control device, followed by selection of the one map data

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in the ROM based on this label information to be read out, and wherein an assist steering force is controlled based on the selected map data.

It is advantageous to configure an electric power steering control device including a memory that permits rewrite and storage of data and a ROM as recited in claim 1 so that one control device can be utilized in various vehicles with different engine specifications. See, for example, p. 10, ll. 18-23 of the present application. For example, when an electric power steering control device configured as recited in claim 1 is applied to a vehicle, various kinds of map data and the associated label information that have been previously stored in the ROM corresponding to the type of vehicle can be selected from the ROM. Application, p. 10, l. 24 - p. 11, l. 12.

Neither Kimura nor Nakano discloses or suggests an electric power steering control device including a ROM as recited in claim 1.

Yasuda discloses a method for setting steering characteristics including creation of a diagram showing the relationship between steering torque and assist current for a single vehicle. See Yasuda, Figs. 4 and 5 and col. 5, l. 52 - col. 6, l. 10. The diagram is used to visually set steering characteristics at the time of purchase of the vehicle based on driver preferences. Yasuda, col. 7, ll. 7-12.

Yasuda discloses data for a single vehicle and does not disclose label information corresponding to one of a plurality of data. Yasuda consequently does not disclose or suggest a ROM which stores a plurality of map data, wherein the memory stores label information corresponding to one of the plurality of map data, wherein the label information is read out at a start-up of the electric power steering control device, followed by selection of the one map data in the ROM based on this label information to be read out, and wherein an assist steering force is controlled based on the selected map data, as recited by claim 1.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claim 2 that depends therefrom, are respectfully requested.

III.   New Claim 7

Claim 7 is directed to a method for initializing an electric power steering control device configured according to claim 1. Claim 7 recites:

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- copying the label information for the selected map data from the ROM to the memory;
- selecting an address where the selected map data on the ROM is stored based on the label information;
- reading the selected map data from the ROM and storing the selected map data in the memory; and
- copying a set of constants or mathematical expression data from the ROM to the memory.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests the method recited in claim 7. Consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.
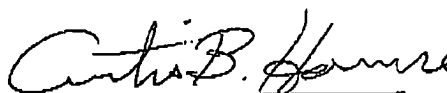
IV.   Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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